

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE
ON
TORT REFORM**

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Room 519, House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Tort Reform was called to order by the Chair, Representative Elsenheimer.

Members present: Representatives Elsenheimer, Kahn, Gaffney, Huizenga, Hune, Adamini, McConico, Bieda.

Representative Gaffney moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 7, 2006. Representative Bieda supported the motion. There being no objection the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Representative Bieda moved to approve Room 519 of the House Office Building as the regular meeting place for the Standing Committee on Tort Reform. Representative Hune supported the motion. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Chairman Elsenheimer made an opening statement expressing concern over taxpayers' dollars being used for politically related issues relevant to subject matter of the committee.

Chairman Elsenheimer introduced Lewis Dodak, former Speaker of the House. In 1985 Mr. Dodak was the Chairman of the House Select Committee on Insurance Liability. Mr. Dodak spoke to the committee about his experience in tort reform, including the 1985 report from the Select Committee. Mr. Dodak also covered revisions made to tort reform law in 1986 and provided general background on the issue.

Chairman Elsenheimer introduced Richard Kitch, co-founder and President of the law firm Kitch, Drutchas, Wagner, Valitutti & Sherbrook. Mr. Kitch spoke to the committee about the various tort reforms made in the medical field over the past two decades. Mr. Kitch provided a history of tort reform in Michigan and specific reforms made in 1993.

Chairman Elsenheimer introduced Tim Reeves from the Legislative Service Bureau. Mr. Reeves provided a brief explanation of tort reform legislation passed in 1995 and submitted to the committee a Legislative Brief entitled History of Tort Reform in Michigan.

There being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

Representative Kevin Elsenheimer, Chair_____

Doug Simon, Committee Clerk
House Tort Reform Committee, (517) 373-0015